

Dear x,

Thank you for your email regarding the upcoming vote on TTIP.

In response to a number of constituent enquiries regarding TTIP and the NHS I wrote to the EU's Chief Negotiator seeking assurances that the NHS would be protected under the deal. In his response, the Director General of the EU Commission's Trade Directorate was clear: "[TTIP] would not affect the UK or devolved governments' sovereignty over how NHS services are provided, whether in Scotland or the rest of the UK". You can read my letter to the European Commission and the response here: <http://www.ianduncan.org.uk/blog/eu-commission-letter-shatters-nhs-myths-around-ttip>

The text to which you refer (section 1, point b, point vii) has implications beyond the NHS, and could also affect charities and the voluntary sector, which fall into the categories of 'services of general interest' or 'services of general economic interest'. The consequence of voting down the overall text could be that charities would not be able to source goods and services from the US at competitive prices available to the other beneficiaries of the wider TTIP agreement. I am currently investigating this interpretation to ensure that I fully appreciate the implications before I vote.

You can find more information on my position on TTIP, and in particular investor protection, on my website here: <http://www.ianduncan.org.uk/ttip>

I will continue to update the website with more information following the vote in plenary tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.